




CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 207-2004

To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: August 6, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez 
City Manager

Subject: WEEKLY UPDATE

The purpose of this LTC is to provide you with an update describing some of the areas the Administration has recently been focusing on:

Major Events Plan (MEP) – City Staff met throughout the week to continue planning and preparing for several major events that will be taking place in the next few months, including the MTV Music Video Awards, the Labor Day holiday weekend, and the Columbus holiday weekend. The MTV Music Video Awards ceremony will take place on August 29, 2004 at the American Airlines Arena in Miami with several ancillary events taking place at various nightclubs and hotels throughout the entertainment district of Miami Beach. These events will begin in the evening hours on Thursday, August 25 and end in the early morning hours of Tuesday, August 31. A separate LTC with additional details regarding the MTV Music Video Awards was sent on August 4.

Air & Sea Show – Coordinators of the Air & Sea Show, which has taken place in Fort Lauderdale in the past, have reached out to the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMCVB), Miami Dade County, and the Cities of Miami and Miami Beach to explore the possibility of moving this annual event to our area. This two-day event is a salute to the U.S. Military and features demonstrations by the U.S. Military, along with top civilian air & sea performers. Staff and I met with representatives from the Air & Sea Show to further explore the possibility of having portions of this event take place in Miami Beach. Further meetings need to be held in order to determine if it is in our best interest to participate.

Education on Miami Beach – I met with State Representative Dan Gelber on August 3 to discuss and explore ways to improve the quality of education on Miami Beach. The City has coordinated an educational fair to be held at City Hall on August 12 to provide employees and members of the public information about higher educational opportunities and alternatives available in our area. Florida International University, Barry University, Miami Dade Community College, and several other area colleges will participate in this educational fair.

Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce – I attended a joint Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce Board of Governor's and Pillar Trustee meeting on August 3 to participate in a discussion regarding the County G.O. Bond questions and the possible impacts passage of the bonds will have on Miami Beach.

Organizational Development – On August 5, I hosted a brown bag lunch with staff from the Public Works Department. These brown bag lunches are part of my ongoing efforts to meet with staff from all levels and all City Departments. The third session of the "Supervision in Government" series took place on August 5. This course is specifically designed for new supervisors in the City. The final session in this series is scheduled for August 19. Several staff also participated in the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" course offered on August 6 that was presented by a certified Franklin Covey trainer. The next session in this series is scheduled for August 13.

New World Symphony (NWS) – on August 5, City staff and I met with representatives from the NWS and the owners of the 420 Lincoln Road Building. An updated, alternative project concept plan was submitted and discussed. The revised concept plans reflect maintaining Drexel Avenue open and providing an open plaza area between Drexel and Washington Avenue and providing main pedestrian linkages and connections between Convention Center Drive, 17th Street and Lincoln Road via Drexel Avenue; orienting the parking garage frontage onto on Pennsylvania Avenue; and the proposed main exterior screen has been shifted from the south side of the building to the east side facing towards the park. The plan also calls for the possibility of parking being provided at the 420 Lincoln Road Building. The revised concept plan will be presented to the Planning Board on August 24, 2004 and to the City Commission on September 8, 2004.

Camp Miami Beach – The cable network HBO, has entered into a partnership with the City to present the first Camp Miami Beach, a series of arts and cultural programs, sports and recreation, and health and wellness activities aimed at highlighting Miami Beach to visiting families and residents. The kick-off event was held on August 5. On August 6, a "Good Sports Seminar" was held at the Byron Carlyle Theater and attracted more that 150 children. This event was hosted by Dan Marino and Chris Carter, former professional football athletes and current hosts of HBO's "Inside the NFL". Future events include a "Meet the Filmmakers" session on August 12 and a "Family Storybook Festival" on August 14, both at the Byron Carlyle Theater. Additional details about Camp Miami Beach are available at the following website: www.CampMiamiBeach.com.

Union Negotiations – Staff from Labor Relations met with representatives from the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Union on August 6 to continue our ongoing negotiations. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for August 19, 2004.

Florida Power and Light (FPL) – Staff and I met with representatives from FPL to review plans for the replacement of the damaged cable near the Aqua development on Indian Creek and 63rd Street. FPL estimates that the replacement project will be completed by October 2004.

City Hall Parking Garage Expansion – An initial meeting was held with staff and project consultants to discuss the planning efforts and next steps involved with the construction of the parking garage to be located behind City Hall. Appropriate follow-up meetings will be scheduled in order to ensure that our efforts remain on target with the estimated completion date.

Homebuyer Workshop – The City has partnered with the Miami Beach Development Corporation to present a homebuyer workshop on August 10 for City staff and members of the public. This session will provide information on the steps involved in purchasing a home.

Domestic Partnership Registry – Staff from my Office and the Office of the City Clerk worked this week on finalizing plans for the domestic partner registry which is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 9. Registration will be available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the City Clerk's Office in the first floor of City Hall. Registration fee is \$50.00 per couple. The registration form is available via the City's website. In case you would like view, please go to: www.miamibeachfl.gov/newcity/depts/clerk/domestic_partnership_registration.pdf

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

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